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57

Nr. III.

THE
PLEASURES OF HOPE
WITH OTHER POEMS

BY
THOMAS CAMPBELL.

LEIPZIG,
printed for GERHARD FLEISCHER, the younger.

1803.

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THE
PLEASURES OF HOPE;

PART FIRST.

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BY THOMAS CAMPBELL.

THE FIFTH EDITION,

Corrected and Enlarged.

LEIPZIG,

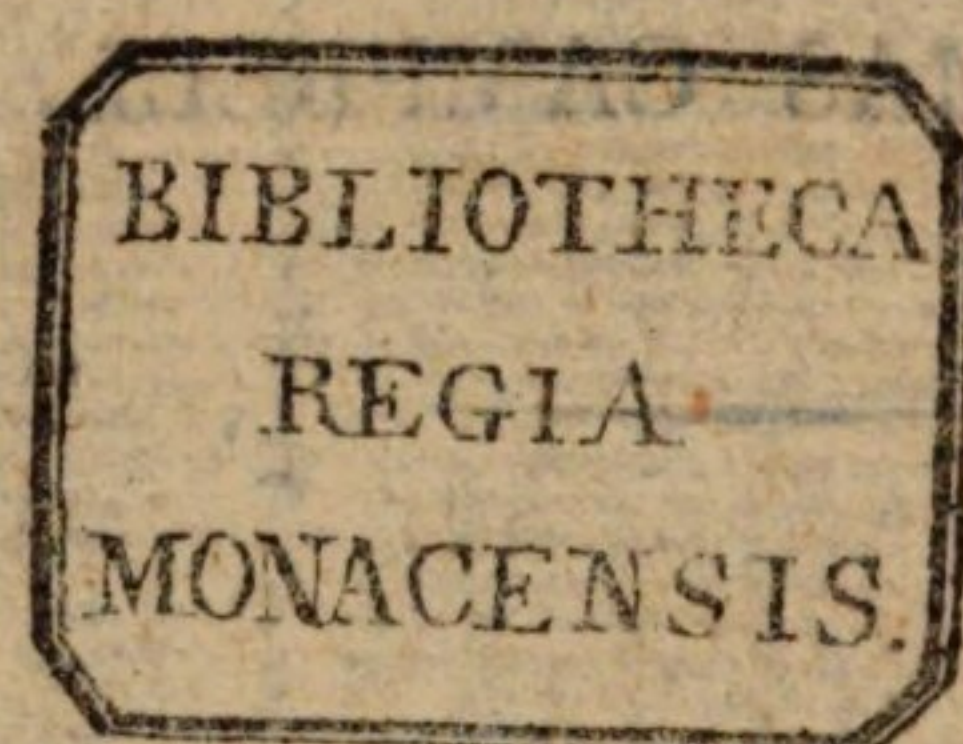
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PLEASURES OF HOPE

WITH OTHER

P O E M S



THE FIRST EDITION

Printed by J. G. Smith

ALFRED

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

1888

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ANALYSIS OF PART I.

THE Poem opens with a comparison between the beauty of remote objects in a landscape, and those ideal scenes of felicity which the imagination delights to contemplate.— The influence of anticipation upon the other passions is next delineated. An allusion is made to the well known fiction in Pagan tradition, that, when all the guardian deities of mankind abandoned the world, Hope alone was left behind.— The consolations of this passion in situations of danger and distress.— The seaman on his midnight watch.— The soldier marching into battle.— Allusion to the interesting adventures of Byron.

The inspiration of Hope, as it actuates the efforts of genius, whether in the department of science, or of taste.— Domestic felicity, how intimately connected with views of future happiness.— Picture of a mother watching her infant

when asleep.— Pictures of the prisoner, the maniac, and the wanderer.

From the consolations of individual misery, a transition is made to prospects of political improvement in the future state of society.— The wide field that is yet open for the progress of humanizing arts among uncivilized nations.— From these views of amelioration of society, and the extension of liberty and truth over despotic and barbarous countries, by a melancholy contrast of ideas we are led to reflect upon the hard fate of a brave people recently conspicuous in their struggles for independence.— Description of the capture of Warsaw, of the last contest of the oppressors and the oppressed, and the massacre of the Polish Patriots at the bridge of Prague.— Apostrophe to the self-interested enemies of human improvement.— The wrongs of Africa.— The barbarous policy of Europeans in India.— Prophecy in the Hindoo mythology of the expected descent of the Deity, to redress the miseries of their race, and to take vengeance on the violators of justice and mercy.

PLEASURES OF HOPE.

PART I.

AT summer eve, when Heav'n's aerial bow
Spans with bright arch the glittering hills below,
Why to yon mountain turns the musing eye,
Whose sunbright summit mingles with the sky?
Why do those cliffs of shadowy tint appear 5
More sweet than all the landscape smiling near?—
'Tis Distance lends enchantment to the view,
And robes the mountain in its azure hue.

Thus, with delight, we linger to survey
The promis'd joys of life's unmeasur'd way; 10
Thus, from afar, each dim-discover'd scene

More pleasing seems than all the past hath been;
And every form, that Fancy can repair
From dark oblivion, glows divinely there.

What potent spirit guides the raptur'd eye 15
To pierce the shades of dim futurity?
Can Wisdom lend, with all her heav'nly power,
The pledge of Joy's anticipated hour?
Ah, no! she darkly sees the fate of man —
Her dim horizon bounded to a span; 20
Or, if she hold an image to the view,
'Tis Nature pictur'd too severely true.

With thee, sweet Hope! resides the heav'nly
light,
That pours remotest rapture on the sight:
Thine is the charm of life's bewilder'd way, 25
That calls each slumb'ring passion into play:
Wak'd by thy touch, I see the sister band,
On tiptoe watching, start at thy command,

And fly where'er thy mandate bids them steer,
To Pleasure's path, or Glory's bright career. 30

Primeval Hope, the Aonian Muses say,
When Man and Nature mourn'd their first decay;
When every form of death, and every woe,
Shot from malignant stars to earth below;
When Murder bar'd his arm, and rampant War 35
Yok'd the red dragons of her iron car;
When Peace and Mercy, banish'd from the plain,
Sprung on the viewless winds to Heav'n again;
All, all forsook the friendless guilty mind,
But Hope, the charmer, linger'd still behind. 40

Thus, while Elijah's burning wheels prepare,
From Carmel's height, to sweep the fields of air,
The prophet's mantle, ere his flight began,
Dropp'd on the world — a sacred gift to man.

Auspicious Hope! in thy sweet garden grow 45
Wreaths for each toil, a charm for every woe:

Won by their sweets, in Nature's languid hour,
The way-worn pilgrim seeks thy summer bower;
There, as the wild-bee murmurs on the wing,
What peaceful dreams thy handmaid spirits
bring! 50

What viewless forms th' Aeolian organ play,
And sweep the furrow'd lines of anxious thought
away!

Angel of life! thy glittering wings explore
Earth's loneliest bounds, and Ocean's wildest
shore.

Lo! to the wint'ry winds the pilot yields 55

His bark careering o'er unfathom'd fields;
Now on Atlantic waves he rides afar,
Where Andes, giant of the western star,
With meteor standard to the winds unfurl'd,
Looks from his throne of clouds o'er half the
world. 60

Now far he sweeps, where scarce a summer
smiles,

On Behring's rocks, or Greenland's naked isles;
Cold on his midnight watch the breezes blow,
From wastes that slumber in eternal snow;
And waft, across the waves tumultuous roar, 65
The wolf's long howl from Oonalaska's shore.

Poor child of danger, nursling of the storm,
Sad are the woes that wreck thy manly form!
Rocks, waves, and winds, the shatter'd bark delay;
Thy heart is sad, thy home is far away. 70

But Hope can here her moonlight vigils keep,
And sing to charm the spirit of the deep:
Swift as yon streamer lights the starry pole,
Her visions warm the watchman's pensive soul:
His native hills that rise in happier climes, 75
The grot that heard his song of other times,
His cottage-home, his bark of slender sail,
His glassy lake, and broomwood blossom'd vale,

Rush on his thought; he sweeps before the wind,
Treads the lov'd shore he sigh'd to leave be-
hind; 80
Meets at each step a friend's familiar face,
And flies at last to Helen's long embrace;
Wipes from her cheek the rapture-speaking tear,
And clasps, with many a sigh, his children dear!
While, long neglected, but at length carels'd, 85
His faithful dog salutes the smiling guest,
Points to the master's eyes (where'er they roam)
His wistful face, and whines a welcome home.

Friend of the brave! in peril's darkest hour,
Intrepid Virtue looks to thee for power; 90
To thee the heart its trembling homage yields,
On stormy floods, and carnage-cover'd fields,
When front to front the banner'd hosts combine,
Halt ere they close, and form the dreadful line.
When all is still on Death's devoted soil, 95
The march-worn soldier mingles for the toil;

As rings his glittering tube, he lifts on high
The dauntless brow, and spirit-speaking eye,
Hails in his heart the triumph yet to come,
And hears thy stormy music in the drum! 100

And such thy strength-inspiring aid that bore
The hardy Byron to his native shore. —^r
In horrid climes, where Chiloe's tempests sweep
Tumultuous murmurs o'er the troubled deep,
'Twas his to mourn misfortune's rudest shock, 105
Scourg'd by the winds, and cradled on the rock,
To wake each joyless morn, and search again
The famish'd haunts of solitary men,
Whose race, unyielding as their native storm,
Knows not a trace of Nature but the form; 110
Yet, at thy call, the hardy tar pursued,
Pale, but intrepid, sad, but unsubdued,
Pierc'd the deep woods, and, hailing from afar,
The moon's pale planet and the northern star;
Paus'd at each dreary cry, unheard before, 115

Hyænas in the wild, and mermaids on the shore;
Till, led by thee o'er many a cliff sublime,
He found a warmer world, a milder clime,
A home to rest, a shelter to defend,
Peace and repose, a Briton and a friend! 2 120

Congenial Hope! thy passion-kindling power,
How bright, how strong, in youth's untroubled
hour!

On yon proud height, with genius hand in hand,
I see thee light, and wave thy golden wand.

“Go, Child of Heaven! (thy winged words
proclaim)

'Tis thine to search the boundless fields of fame! 126

Lo! Newton, Priest of Nature, shines afar,
Scans the wide world, and numbers ev'ry star!
Wilt thou, with him, mysterious rites apply,
And watch the shrine with wonder-beaming
eye? 130

Yes, thou shalt mark, with magic art profound,

The speed of light, the circling march of sound;
With Franklin grasp the lightning's fiery wing,
Or yield the lyre of Heav'n another string. ³

"The Swedish sage admires, in yonder
bow'rs, ⁴ 135
His winged insects, and his rosy flow'rs;
Calls from their woodland haunts the savage
train

With sounding horn, and counts them on the
plain —
So once, at Heav'n's command, the wand'ers came
To Eden's shade, and heard their various name. 140

"Far from the world, in yon sequester'd clime,
Slow pass the sons of Wisdom, more sublime;
Calm as the fields of Heav'n, his sapient eye
The lov'd Athenian lifts to realms on high,
Admiring Plato on his spotless page, 145
Stamps the bright dictates of the Father sage:

'Shall Nature bound to Earth's diurnal span
The fire of God, th' immortal soul of man?

"Turn, Child of Heav'n, thy rapture-light-
en'd eye

To Wisdom's walks, the sacred Nine are
nigh: 150

Hark! from bright spires that gild the Delphian
height,

From streams that wander in eternal light,

Rang'd on their hill, Harmonia's daughters swell

The mingling tones of horn, and harp, and
shell;

Deep from his vaults, the Loxian murmurs
flow, 155

And Pythia's awful organ peals below.

"Belov'd of Heav'n! the smiling muse shall shed
Her moonlight halo on thy beauteous head;
Shall swell thy heart to rapture unconfined,

And breathe a holy madness o'er thy mind. 160
I see thee roam her guardian pow'r beneath,
And talk with spirits on the midnight heath;
Inquire of guilty wand'ers whence they came,
And ask each blood-stain'd form his earthly name;
Then weave in rapid verse the deeds they tell, 165
And read the trembling world the tales of hell.

“When Venus, thron'd in clouds of rosy hue,
Flings from her golden urn the vesper dew,
And bids fond man her glimmering noon em-
ploy,
Sacred to love and walks of tender joy; 170
A milder mood the goddess shall recall,
And soft as dew thy tones of music fall;
While Beauty's deeply pictur'd smiles impart
A pang more dear than pleasure to the heart—
Warm as thy sighs shall flow the Lesbian strain, 175
And plead in Beauty's ear, nor plead in vain.

“Or wilt thou Orphean hymns more sacred
deem,
And steep thy song in Mercy’s mellow stream;
To pensive drops the radiant eye beguile—
For Beauty’s tears are lovelier than her smile;—180
On Nature’s throbbing anguish pour relief,
And teach impassion’d souls the Joy of Grief?

“Yes; to thy tongue shall seraph words be giv’n,
And pow’r on earth to plead the cause of Heav’n;
The proud, the cold untroubled heart of stone, 185
That never mus’d on sorrow but its own,
Unlocks a generous store at thy command,
Like Horeb’s rocks beneath the prophet’s hand. “
The living lumber of his kindred earth,
Charm’d into soul, receives a second birth; 190
Feels thy dread pow’r another heart afford,
Whose passion-touch’d harmonious strings accord
True as the circling spheres to Nature’s plan;
And man, the brother, lives the friend of man!

“Bright as the pillar rose at Heav’n’s com-
mand, 195

When Israel march’d along the desert land,
Blaz’d through the night on lonely wilds afar,
And told the path — a never-setting star:
So, heav’nly Genius, in thy course divine,
Hope is thy star, her light is ever thine.” 200

Propitious Pow’r! when rankling cares annoy,
The sacred home of Hymenean joy;
When doom’d to Poverty’s sequester’d dell,
The wedded pair of love and virtue dwell,
Unpitied by the world, unknown to fame, 205
Their woes, their wishes, and their hearts the
same —

Oh there, prophetic Hope! thy smile bestow,
And chase the pangs that worth should never
know —

There, as the parent deals his scanty store
To friendless babes, and weeps to give no more; 210

Tell, that his manly race shall yet assuage
Their father's wrongs, and shield his later age.
What though for him no Hybla sweets distill,
Nor bloomy vines wave purple on the hill;
Tell, that when silent years have pass'd away, 215
That when his eye grows dim, his tresses gray,
These busy hands a lovelier cot shall build,
And deck with fairer flow'rs his little field,
And call from Heav'n propitious dew to breathe
Arcadian beauty on the barren heath; 220
Tell, that while Love's spontaneous smile endears
The days of peace, the sabbath of his years,
Health shall prolong to many a festive hour
The social pleasures of his humble bower.

Lo! at the couch where infant beauty sleeps, 225
Her silent watch the mournful mother keeps;
She, while the lovely babe unconscious lies,
Smiles on her slumb'ring child with pensive eyes,
And weaves a song of melancholy joy —

“Sleep, image of thy father, sleep, my boy: 230
No ling’ring hour of sorrow shall be thine;
No sigh that rends thy father’s heart and mine;
Bright as his manly fire, the son shall be
In form and soul; but, ah! more blest than he!
Thy fame, thy worth, thy filial love, at last, 235
Shall soothe this aching heart for all the past —
With many a smile my solitude repay,
And chase the world’s ungenerous scorn away.

“And say, when summon’d from the world
and thee,
I lay my head beneath the willow tree; 240
Wilt *thou*, sweet mourner! at my stone ap-
pear,
And soothe my parted spirit ling’ring near?
Oh, wilt thou come, at ev’ning hour, to shed
The tears of Memory o’er my narrow bed;
With aching temples on thy hand reclin’d, 245
Muse on the last farewell I leave behind,

Breathe a deep sigh to winds that murmur
low,

And think on all my love, and all my woe?"

So speaks affection, ere the infant eye
Can look regard, or brighten in reply; 250
But when the cherub lip hath learnt to claim
A mother's ear by that endearing name;
Soon as the playful innocent can prove
A tear of pity, or a smile of love,
Or cons his murm'ring talk beneath her
care, 255
Or lisps with holy look his ev'ning prayer,
Or gazing, mutely pensive, sits to hear
The mournful ballad warbled in his ear;
How fondly looks admiring Hope the while,
At every artless tear, and every smile! 260
How glows the joyous parent to descry
A guileless bosom, true to sympathy!

Where is the troubled heart, consign'd to
share
'Tumultuous toils, or solitary care,
Unblest by visionary thoughts that stray 265
To count the joys of Fortune's better day!
Lo, nature, life, and liberty relume
The dim-ey'd tenant of the dungeon gloom,
A long lost friend, or hapless child restor'd,
Smile at his blazing hearth and social board; 270
Warm from his heart the tears of rapture flow,
And virtue triumphs o'er remember'd woe.

Chide not his peace, proud Reason! nor
destroy
The shadowy forms of uncreated joy,
'That urge the lingering tide of life, and pour 275
Spontaneous slumber on his midnight hour.

Hark! the wild maniac sings, to chide the gale
That wafts so slow her lover's distant sail;

She, sad spectatress, on the wint'ry shore
Watch'd the rude surge his shroudless corse that
bore,

Knew the pale form, and, shrieking in amaze, 281
Clasp'd her cold hands, and fix'd her madden-
ing gaze:

Poor widow'd wretch! 'twas there she wept in
vain,

Till memory fled her agonizing brain; —

But Mercy gave, to charm the sense of woe, 285

Ideal peace, that Truth could ne'er bestow; —

Warm on her heart the joys of Fancy beam,

And aimless Hope delights her darkest dream.

Oft when yon moon has climb'd the midnight sky,

And the lone sea-bird wakes its wildest cry, 290

Pil'd on the sleep, her blazing faggots burn

To hail the bark that never can return;

And still she waits, but scarce forbears to weep

That constant love can linger on the deep.

And, mark the wretch, whose wand'rings
never knew
The world's regard, that soothes, though half
untrue, 296
Whose erring heart the lash of sorrow bore,
But found not pity when it err'd no more.
Yon friendless man, at whose dejected eye
Th' unfeeling proud one looks — and passes
by; 300

Condemn'd on Penury's barren path to roam,
Scorn'd by the world, and left without a
home —
Ev'n he, at evening, should he chance to stray
Down by the hamlet's hawthorn-scented way,
Where, round the cot's romantic glade, are
seen 305
The blossom'd bean-field, and the sloping
green,
Leans o'er its humble gate, and thinks the
while —

Oh! that for me some home like this would smile,
Some hamlet shade, to yield my sickly form,
Health in the breeze, and shelter in the storm; 310
There should my hand no stinted boon assign
To wretched hearts with sorrows such as mine;—
That generous wish can soothe unpitied care,
And Hope half mingles with the poor man's
pray'r.

Hope! when I mourn, with sympathising
mind, 315
The wrongs of fate, the woes of human kind,
Thy blissful omens bid my spirit see
The boundless fields of rapture yet to be;
I watch the wheels of Nature's mazy plan,
And learn the future by the past of man. 320

Come, bright Improvement! on the car of
Time,
And rule the spacious world from clime to clime;

Thy handmaid arts shall every wild explore,
Trace every wave, and culture every shore.
On Erie's banks, where tygers steal along, 325
And the dread Indian chants a dismal song,
Where human fiends on midnight errands walk,
And bathe in brains the murd'rous tomahawk;
There shall the flocks on thymy pasture stray,
And shepherds dance at Summer's op'ning
day; 330
Each wand'ring genius of the lonely glen!
Shall start to view the glittering haunts of men;
And silence watch, on woodland heights around,
The village curfew, as it tolls profound.

In Lybian groves, where damned rites are
done, 335
That bathe the rocks in blood, and veil the
sun,
Truth shall arrest the murd'rous arm profane,
Wild Obi flies — the veil is rent in twain.

Where barb'rous hordes on Scythian moun-
tains roam,
Truth, Mercy, Freedom, yet shall find a
home; 340
Where'er degraded Nature bleeds and pines,
From Guinea's coast to Sibir's dreary mines,
Truth shall pervade th' unfathom'd darkness
there,
And light the dreadful features of despair.—
Hark! the stern captive spurns his heavy
load, 345
And asks the image back that Heaven be-
stow'd!
Fierce in his eye the fire of valour burns,
And, as the slave departs, the man returns!
Oh! sacred Truth! thy triumph ceas'd a
while,
And Hope, thy sister, ceas'd with thee to
smile, 350

When leagu'd Oppression pour'd to Northern
wars

Her whicker'd pandours and her fierce huffars,
Wav'd her dread standard to the breeze of morn,
Peal'd her loud drum, and itwang'd her trumpet
horn;

Tumultuous horror brooded o'er her van, 355
Prefaging wrath to Poland — and to man! °

Warsaw's last champion, from her height
survey'd,

Wide o'er the fields, a waste of ruin laid, —

Oh! Heav'n! he cried, my bleeding country
save! —

Is there no hand on high to shield the brave? — 360

Yet, though destruction sweep these lovely
plains,

Rise, fellow-men! our country yet remains!

By that dread name, we wave the sword on high,

And swear for her to live! — with her to die!

He said, and on the rampart-heights ar-
ray'd 365

His trusty warriors, few, but undismay'd;
Firm-pack'd and slow, a horrid front they form,
Still as the breeze, but dreadful as the storm;
Low, murm'ring sounds along their banners fly,
Revenge, or death, — the watchword and re-
ply; 370

Then peal'd the notes, omnipotent to charm,
And the loud tocsin toll'd their last alarm! —

In vain, alas! in vain, ye gallant few!
From rank to rank your volley'd thunder
flew: —

Oh! bloodiest picture in the book of Time, 375
Sarmatia fell, unwept, without a crime;
Found not a generous friend, a pitying foe,
Strength in her arms, nor mercy in her woe!
Dropp'd from her nerveless grasp the shatter'd
spear,

Clos'd her bright eye, and curb'd her high
career; — 380

Hope, for a season, bade the world farewell,
And Freedom shriek'd — as Kosciusko fell!

The sun went down, nor ceas'd the carnage
there,

Tumultuous murder shook the midnight air —
On Prague's proud arch the fires of ruin glow, 385

His blood-dy'd waters murm'ring far below; —

The storm prevails, the rampart yields a way,
Bursts the wild cry of horror and dismay! —

Hark! as the smouldering piles with thunder fall,

A thousand shrieks for hopeless mercy call! 390

Earth shook — red meteors flash'd along the sky,

And conscious Nature shudder'd at the cry!

Oh! Righteous Heav'n! ere Freedom found

a grave,

Why slept the sword, omnipotent to save!

Where was thine arm, O Vengeance! where
thy rod, 395

That smote the foes of Zion and of God,
That crush'd proud Ammon, when his iron
car

Was yok'd in wrath, and thunder'd from afar?

Where was the storm that slumber'd till the
— host

Of blood-stain'd Pharaoh left their trembling
— coast, 400

Then bade the deep in wild commotion flow,
And heay'd an ocean on their march below?

Departed spirits of the mighty dead!

Ye that at Marathon and Leuctra bled!

Friends of the world! restore your swords to
man, 405

Fight in his sacred cause, and lead the van!

Yet for Sarmatia's tears of blood atone,

And make her arm puissant as your own! —

Oh! once again to Freedom's cause return
The patriot TELL — the BRUCE OF BANNOCK-
—:enivib and bus ,nial y born! ,unifor 410

Yes! thy proud lords, unpitied land! shall see
That man hath yet a soul — and dare be free!
A little while, along thy saddening plains,
The starless night of desolation reigns;
'Truth shall restore the light by Nature giv'n, 415
And, like Prometheus, bring the fire of Heav'n!
Prone to the dust oppression shall be hurl'd,
Her name, her nature, wither'd from the world!

Ye that the rising morn invidious mark,
And hate the light — because your deeds are
dark; 420
Ye that expanding truth invidious view,
And think, or wish the song of Hope untrue;
Perhaps your little hands presume to span
The march of Genius, and the pow'rs of man;

Perhaps ye watch, at Pride's unhallow'd
shrine, 425

Her victims, newly slain, and thus divine:—

“Here shall thy triumph, Genius, cease, and

here,

Truth, Science, Virtue, close your short career.”

Tyrants! in vain ye trace the wizard ring:

In vain ye limit Mind's unwearied spring: 430

What! can ye lull the winged winds asleep,

Arrest the rolling world, or chain the deep?

No: — the wild wave contemns your scepter'd

hand; —

It roll'd not back when Canute gave command!

Man! can thy doom no brighter soul allow? 435

Still must thou live a blot on Nature's brow?

Shall War's polluted banner ne'er be furl'd?

Shall crimes and tyrants cease but with the

world?

What! are thy triumphs, sacred Truth, belied?
Why then hath Plato liv'd — or Sydney died? 440

Ye fond adorers of departed fame,
Who warm at Scipio's worth, or Tully's name!
Ye that, in fancied vision, can admire
The sword of Brutus, and the Theban lyre!
Wrapt in historic ardour, who adore 445
Each classic haunt, and well-remember'd shore,
Where Valour tun'd, amid her chosen throng,
The Thracian trumpet and the Spartan song;
Or, wand'ring thence, behold the later charms
Of England's glory, and Helvetia's arms! 450
See Roman fire in Hampden's bosom swell,
And fate and freedom in the shaft of Tell!
Say, ye fond zealots to the worth of yore,
Hath Valour left the world — to live no more?
No more shall Brutus bid a tyrant die, 455
And sternly smile with vengeance in his eye?
Hampden no more, when suffering Freedom calls,

Encounter fate, and triumph as he falls?
Nor Tell disclose, through peril and alarm,
The might that slumbers in a peasant's
arm? 460

Yes! in that generous cause for ever strong,
The patriot's virtue, and the poet's song,
Still, as the tide of ages rolls away,
Shall charm the world, unconscious of decay!

Yes there are hearts, prophetic Hope may
trust, 465
That slumber yet in uncreated dust,
Ordain'd to fire th' adoring sons of earth
With every charm of wisdom and of worth;
Ordain'd to light, with intellectual day,
The mazy wheels of Nature as they play, 470
Or, warm with Fancy's energy, to glow,
And rival all but Shakspeare's name below!

And say, supernal Powers! who deeply scan
Heav'n's dark decrees, unfathom'd yet by man,
When shall the world call down, to cleanse her
shame, 475

That embryo spirit, yet without a name, —
That friend of Nature, whose avenging hands
Shall burst the Lybian's adamantine bands?
Who, sternly marking on his native soil,
The blood, the tears, the anguish, and the
toil, 480

Shall bid each righteous heart exult, to see
Peace to the slave, and vengeance on the free!

Yet, yet, degraded men! th' expected day
That breaks your bitter cup, is far away;
Trade, wealth, and fashion, ask you still to
bleed, 485

And holy men give scripture for the deed;
Scourg'd and debas'd, no Briton stoops to save
A wretch, a coward; yes, because a slave!

Eternal Nature! when thy giant hand
Had heav'd the floods, and fix'd the trembling
land, 490
When life sprung startling at thy plastic call,
Endless her forms, and Man the lord of all!
Say, was that lordly form inspir'd by thee
To wear eternal chains, and bow the knee?
Was man ordain'd the slave of man to toil, 495
Yok'd with the brutes, and fetter'd to the soil;
Weigh'd in a tyrant's balance with his gold?
No! — Nature stamp'd us in a heav'nly mould!
She bade no wretch his thankless labour urge,
Nor, trembling, take the pittance and the
scourge! 500
No homeless Lybian, on the stormy deep,
To call upon his country's name, and weep!

Lo! once in triumph on his boundless plain,
The quiver'd chief of Congo lov'd to reign;
With fires proportion'd to his native sky, 505

Strength in his arm, and lightning in his eye;
Scour'd with wild feet his sun-illumin'd zone,
The spear, the lion, and the woods his own;
Or led the combat, bold without a plan,
An artless savage, but a fearless man! 510

The plunderer came: — alas! no glory smiles
For Congo's chief on yonder Indian isles;
For ever fallen! no son of Nature now,
With Freedom charter'd on his manly brow!
Faint, bleeding, bound, he weeps the night
away, 515

And, when the sea-wind wafts the dewless day,
Starts, with a bursting heart, for ever more
To curse the sun that lights their guilty shore!

The shrill horn blew; ¹⁰ at that alarum knell
His guardian angel took a last farewell! 520
That funeral dirge to darkness hath resign'd
The fiery grandeur of a generous mind!

Poor fetter'd man! I hear thee whispering low
Unhallow'd vows to Guilt, the child of Woe!
Friendless thy heart; and, canst thou harbour
there 525
A wish but death — a passion but despair?

The widow'd Indian, when her lord expires,
Mounts the dread pile, and braves the funeral
fires!
So falls the heart at Thraldom's bitter sigh!
So Virtue dies, the spouse of Liberty! 530

But not to Lybia's barren climes alone,
To Chili, or the wild Siberian zone,
Belong the wretched heart and haggard eye,
Degraded worth, and poor misfortune's sigh! —
Ye orient realms, where Ganges' waters run! 535
Prolific fields! dominions of the sun!
How long your tribes have trembled, and
obey'd!

How long was Timur's iron sceptre sway'd! ¹¹
Whose marshall'd hosts, the lions of the plain,
From Scythia's northern mountains to the
main, 540
Rag'd o'er your plunder'd shrines and altars
bare,
With blazing torch and gory scymitar, —
Stunn'd with the cries of death each gentle gale,
And bath'd in blood the verdure of the vale!
Yet could no pangs the immortal spirit tame, 545
When Brama's children perish'd for his name;
The martyr smil'd beneath avenging pow'r,
And brav'd the tyrant in his torturing hour!
When Europe fought your subject realms to
gain,
And stretch'd her giant sceptre o'er the main, 550
Taught her proud barks their winding way to
shape,
And brav'd the stormy spirit of the Cape; ¹²

Children of Brama! then was mercy nigh
To wash the stain of blood's eternal dye?
Did Peace descend, to triumph and to save, 555
When free born Britons cross'd the Indian wave?
Ah, no! — to more than Rome's ambition true,
The Nurse of Freedom gave it not to you!
She the bold route of Europe's guilt began,
And in the march of nations, led the van! 560

Rich in the gems of India's gaudy zone,
And plunder pil'd from kingdoms not their own,
Degenerate Trade! thy minions could despise
The heart-born anguish of a thousand cries;
Could lock, with impious hands, their teeming
store, 565
While famish'd nations died along the shore;
Could mock the groans of fellow-men, and bear
The curse of kingdoms peopled with despair;
Could stamp disgrace on man's polluted name,
And barter, with their gold, eternal shame! 570

Convulsive trembled as the Mighty came;
Nine times hath suffering Mercy spar'd in
vain — ¹⁴ 585

But Heav'n shall burst her starry gates again!
He comes! dread Brama shakes the sunless sky
With murmuring wrath, and thunders from on
high!

Heaven's fiery horse, beneath his warrior form,
Paws the light clouds, and gallops on the
storm! 590

Wide waves his flickering sword, his bright
arms glow

Like summer suns, and light the world below!
Earth, and her trembling isles in Ocean's bed
Are shook, and Nature rocks beneath his tread!

To pour redress on India's injur'd realm, 595
The oppressor to dethrone, the proud to
whelm;

To chase destruction from her plunder'd shore

With arts and arms that triumph'd once before,
The tenth Avatar comes! at Heav'n's command
Shall Seriswattee ¹⁵ wave her hallowed wand! 600
And Camdeo bright, and Ganefa sublime,
Shall blefs with joy their own propitious clime!—
Come, Heav'nly Powers! primeval peace re-
store!
Love! — Mercy! — Wisdom! — rule for ever
more!”

END OF PART FIRST.

END OF PART FIRST.

THE
PLEASURES OF HOPE;

PART SECOND.

THE

PLEASURES OF HOPE,

PART SECOND.

ANALYSIS OF PART II.

APOSTROPHE to the power of Love. — Its intimate connection with generous and social Sensibility. — Allusion to that beautiful passage in the beginning of the Book of Genesis, which represents the happiness of Paradise itself incomplete, till Love was superadded to its other blessings. — The dreams of future felicity which a lively imagination is apt to cherish, when Hope is animated by refined attachment. — This disposition to combine, in one imaginary scene of residence, all that is pleasing in our estimate of happiness, compared to the skill of the great artist, who personified perfect beauty, in the picture of Venus, by an assemblage of the most beautiful features he could find. — A summer and winter evening described, as they may be supposed to arise in the mind of one who wishes, with enthusiasm, for the union of friendship and retirement.

Hope and Imagination inseparable agents. — Even in those contemplative moments when our imagination wanders beyond the boundaries of this world, our minds are not unattended with an impression, that we shall some day have a wider and distinct prospect of the universe, instead of the partial glimpse we now enjoy.

The last and most sublime influence of Hope, is the concluding topic of the Poem. The predominance of a belief in a future state over the terrors attendant on dissolution. — The baneful influence of that sceptical philosophy which bars us from such comforts. — Allusion to the fate of a suicide. — Episode of Conrad and Ellenore. — Conclusion.

PLEASURES OF HOPE.

PART II.

IN joyous youth, what soul hath never known
Thought, feeling, taste, harmonious to its own?
Who hath not paus'd, while Beauty's pensive
eye

Ask'd from his heart the homage of a sigh?

Who hath not own'd, with rapture-smitten
frame, 5

The power of grace, the magic of a name?

There be, perhaps, who barren hearts avow,
Cold as the rocks on Torneo's hoary brow;

There be, whose loveless wisdom never fail'd,
In self-adoring pride securely mail'd; — 10
But, triumph not, ye peace-enamour'd few!
Fire, Nature, Genius, never dwelt with you!
For you no fancy consecrates the scene
Where rapture utter'd vows, and wept between;
Tis yours, unmov'd, to sever and to meet; 15
No pledge is sacred, and no home is sweet!

Who that would ask a heart to dulness wed,
The waveless calm, the slumber of the dead?
No; the wild bliss of Nature needs alloy,
And fear and sorrow fan the fire of joy! 20
And say, without our hopes, without our fears,
Without the home that plighted love endears,
Without the smile from partial beauty won,
O! what were man? — a world without a sun!

Till Hymen brought his love-delighted hour, 25
There dwelt no joy in Eden's rosy bow'r!

By wealthless lot, or pitiless command;
Or doom'd to gaze on beauties that adorn
The smile of triumph, or the frown of scorn;
While Memory watches o'er the sad review 45
Of joys that faded like the morning dew;
Peace may depart — and life and nature seem
A barren path — a wildness, and a dream!

But, can the noble mind for ever brood,
The willing victim of a weary mood, 50
On heartless cares that squander life away,
And cloud young Genius bright'ning into day! —
Shame to the coward thought that e'er betray'd
The noon of manhood to a myrtle shade! —
If Hope's creative spirit cannot raise 55
One trophy sacred to thy future days,
Scorn the dull crowd that haunt the gloomy
shrine
Of hopeless love to murmur and repine!
But, should a sigh of milder mood express

Thy heart-warm wishes, true to happiness, 60
Should Heav'n's fair harbinger delight to pour
Her blissful visions on thy pensive hour,

No tear to blot thy memory's pictur'd page,
No fears but such as fancy can assuage;

Though thy wild heart some hapless hour may

miss 65

The peaceful tenor of unvaried bliss,

(For love pursues an ever devious race,

True to the winding lineaments of grace);

Yet still may Hope her talisman employ

To snatch from Heaven anticipated joy, 70

And all her kindred energies impart

That burn the brightest in the purest heart!

When first the Rhodian's mimic art array'd

The queen of Beauty in her Cyprian shade,

The happy master mingled on his piece 75

Each look that charm'd him in the fair of

Greece;

To faultless Nature true, he stole a grace
From every finer form and sweeter face;
And, as he sojourn'd on the Aegean isles,
Woo'd all their love, and treasur'd all their
smiles; 80

Then glow'd the tints, pure, precious, and
refin'd,

And mortal charms seem'd heav'nly when com-
bin'd!

Love on the picture smil'd! Expression pour'd
Her mingling spirit there — and Greece ador'd!

So thy fair hand, enamour'd Fancy! gleans 85
The treasur'd pictures of a thousand scenes!

Thy pencil traces on the Lover's thought
Some cottage-home, from towns and toil re-
mote,

Where Love and Lore may claim alternate
hours,

With Peace embosom'd in Idalian bow'rs! 90

Remote from busy Life's bewilder'd way,
O'er all his heart shall Taste and Beauty sway!
Free on the sunny slope, or winding shore,
With hermit steps to wander and adore!
There shall he love, when genial morn ap-
pears, 95
Like pensive Beauty smiling in her tears,
To watch the bright'ning roses of the sky,
And muse on Nature with a poet's eye! —
And when the sun's last splendour lights the
deep,
The woods, and waves, and murm'ring winds
asleep; 100
When fairy harps th' Hesperian planet hail,
And the lone cuckoo sighs along the vale,
His path shall be where streamy mountains swell
Their shadowy grandeur o'er the narrow dell,
Where mouldering piles and forests inter-
vene, 105
Mingling with darker tints the living green;

No circling hills his ravish'd eye to bound,
Heaven, Earth, and Ocean, blazing all around!

The moon is up — the watch-tow'r dimly
burns —

And down the vale his sober step returns; 110

But pauses oft, as winding rocks convey

The still sweet fall of Music far away;

And oft he lingers from his home a while

To watch the dying notes! — and start, and
smile!

Let Winter come! let polar spirits sweep 115

The dark'ning world, and tempest-troubled
deep!

Though boundless snows the wither'd heath de-
form,

And the dim sun scarce wanders through the
storm;

Yet shall the smile of social love repay,

With mental light, the melancholy day! 120

And, when its short and sullen noon is o'er,

The ice-chain'd waters slumb'ring on the shore,

How bright the faggots in his little hall

Blaze on the hearth, and warm the pictur'd wall!

How blest he names, in Love's familiar

tone, 125

The kind fair friend, by Nature mark'd his

own;

And, in the waveless mirror of his mind,

Views the fleet years of pleasure left behind,

Since Anna's empire o'er his heart be-

gan!

Since first he call'd her his before the holy

man! 130

Trim the gay taper in his rustic dome,

And light the wint'ry paradise of home;

And let the half-uncurtain'd window hail

Yes, at the dead of night, by Lonna's steep,
The seaman's cry was heard along the deep; 150
There, on his funeral waters, dark and wild,
The dying father blest his darling child!
Oh! Mercy, shield her innocence, he cried,
Spent on the pray'r his bursting heart, and
died!

Or will they learn how generous worth su-
blimes 155
The robber Moor, ³ and pleads for all his
crimes!
How poor Amelia kiss'd, with many a tear,
His hand blood-stain'd, but ever ever dear!
Hung on the tortur'd bosom of her lord,
And wept, and pray'd perdition from his
sword! 160
Nor fought in vain! at that heart-piercing
cry
The strings of nature crack'd with agony!

He, with delirious laugh, the dagger hurl'd,
And burst the ties that bound him to the world!

Turn from his dying words, that smite with
steel, 165
The shuddering thoughts, or wind them on the
wheel —

Turn to the gentler melodies that suit
Thalia's harp, or Pan's Arcadian lute;
Or, down the stream of Truth's historic page,
From clime to clime descend, from age to
age! 170

Yet there, perhaps, may darker scenes ob-
trude
Than Fancy fashions in her wildest mood;
There shall he pause, with horrent brow, to
rate
What millions died — that Cæsar might be
great! 4

Or learn the fate that bleeding thousands bore,^s 175

March'd by their Charles to Dneiper's swampy shore;

Faint in his wounds, and shivering in the blast,
The Swedish soldier sunk — and groan'd his last!

File after file, the stormy showers benumb,
Freeze every standard-sheet, and hush the drum! 180

Horsemen and horse confess'd the bitter pang,
And arms and warriors fell with hollow clang!
Yet, ere he sunk in Nature's last repose,
Ere life's warm torrent to the fountain froze,
The dying man to Sweden turn'd his eye, 185
Thought of his home, and clos'd it with a sigh!

Imperial Pride look'd sullen on his plight,
And Charles beheld — nor shudder'd at the fight!

Above, below, in Ocean, Earth, and Sky,
Thy fairy worlds, Imagination, lie, 190
And Hope attends, companion of the way,
Thy dream by night, thy visions of the day!
In yonder penfile orb, and every sphere
That gems the starry girdle of the year;
In those unmeasur'd worlds, she bids thee
Tell, 195
Pure from their God, created millions dwell,
Whose names and natures, unreveal'd below,
We yet shall learn, and wonder as we know;
For, as Iona's Saint, a giant form,
Thron'd on her tow'rs, conversing with the
storm, 200
(When o'er each runic altar, weed-entwin'd,
The vesper clock tolls mournful to the wind),
Counts every wave-worn isle, and mountain
hoar,
From Kilda to the green Ierne's shore;
So, when thy pure and renovated mind 205

This perishable dust hath left behind,
Thy seraph eye shall count the starry train,
Like distant isles embosom'd in the main;
Rapt to the shrine where motion first began,
And light and life in mingling torrent ran; 210
From whence each bright rotundity was hurl'd,
The Throne of God, — the centre of the
world!

Oh! vainly wise, the moral Muse hath sung
That suasive Hope hath but a Syren tongue!
True; she may sport with life's untutor'd
day, 215
Nor heed the solace of its last decay,
The guileless heart her happy mansion spurn,
And part like Ajut — never to return!

But yet, methinks, when Wisdom shall as-
suage

The griefs and passions of our greener age, 220

Though dull the close of life, and far away
 Each flow'r that hail'd the dawning of the day;
 Yet o'er her lovely hopes that once were dear,
 The time-taught spirit, pensive, not severe,
 With milder griefs her aged eye shall fill, 225
 And weep their falsehood, though she love them
 still!

Thus, with forgiving tears, and reconcil'd,
 The king of Judah mourn'd his rebel child!
 Musing on days, when yet the guiltless boy
 Smil'd on his fire, and fill'd his heart with joy! 230
 My Absalom! the voice of Nature cried!
 Oh! that for thee thy father could have died!
 For bloody was the deed, and rashly done,
 That slew my Absalom! — my son! — my son!

Unfading Hope! when life's last embers
 burn, 235
 When soul to soul, and dust to dust return!

Heav'n to thy charge resigns the awful hour!

Oh! then, thy kingdom comes! Immortal

Power!

What though each spark of earth-born rap-

ture fly

The quivering lip, pale cheek, and closing

eye! 240

Bright to the soul thy seraph hands convey

The morning dream of life's eternal day —

Then, then, the triumph and the trance begin!

And all the Phoenix spirit burns within!

Oh! deep-enchancing prelude to repose, 245

The dawn of bliss, the twilight of our woes!

Yet half I hear the parting spirit sigh,

It is a dread and awful thing to die!

Mysterious worlds, untravell'd by the sun!

Where Time's far-wand'ring tide has never

run, 250

From your unfathom'd shades, and viewless
spheres,

A warning comes, unheard by other ears.

'Tis Heav'n's commanding trumpet, long and
loud,

Like Sinai's thunder, pealing from the cloud!

While Nature hears, with terror-mingled
trust, 255

The shock that hurls her fabric to the dust;

And, like the trembling Hebrew, when he trod

The roaring waves, and call'd upon his God,

With mortal terrors clouds immortal blifs,

And shrieks, and hovers o'er the dark abyfs! 260

Daughter of Faith, awake, arise, illumine

The dread unknown, the chaos of the tomb!

Melt, and dispel, ye spectre-doubts, that roll

Cimmerian darkness on the parting soul!

Fly, like the moon-ey'd herald of dismay, 265

Chas'd on his night-steed by the star of day!

The strife is o'er — the pangs of Nature close,
And life's last rapture triumphs o'er her woes.
Hark! as the spirit eyes, with eagle gaze,
The noon of Heav'n undazzled by the blaze, 270
On Heav'nly winds that waft her to the sky,
Float the sweet tones of star-born melody;
Wild as that hallow'd anthem sent to hail
Bethlehem's shepherds in the lonely vale,
When Jordan hush'd his waves, and midnight
still 275
Watch'd on the holy tow'rs of Zion hill!

Soul of the just! companion of the dead!
Where is thy home, and whither art thou fled?
Back to its heav'nly source thy being goes,
Swift as the comet wheels to whence he
role; 280
Doom'd on his airy path a while to burn,
And doom'd, like thee, to travel, and re-
turn. —

Content to feed, with pleasures unrefin'd,
The lukewarm passions of a lowly mind;
Who, mould'ring earthward, 'rest of every
trust,

In joyless union wedded to the dust, 300

Could all his parting energy dismiss,
And call this barren world sufficient bliss? —

There live, alas! of Heav'n-directed mien,

Of cultur'd soul, and sapient eye serene,

Who hail thee, Man! the pilgrim of a day, 305

Spouse of the worm, and brother of the clay!

Frail as the leaf in Autumn's yellow bower,

Dust in the wind, or dew upon the flower!

A friendless slave, a child without a fire,

Whose mortal life, and momentary fire, 310

Lights to the grave his chance-created form,

As ocean-wrecks illuminate the storm;

And, when the gun's tremendous flash is o'er,

To Night and Silence sink for ever more! —

Are these the pompous tidings ye pro-
claim, 315

Lights of the world, and demi-gods of Fame?
Is this your triumph — this your proud ap-
plause,

Children of Truth, and champions of her
cause?

For this hath Science search'd, on weary wing,
By shore and sea — each mute and living
thing? 320

Launch'd with Iberia's pilot from the steep,
To worlds unknown, and isles beyond the deep?
Or round the cope her living chariot driv'n,
And wheel'd in triumph through the signs of
Heav'n?

Oh! star-ey'd Science, hast thou wander'd
there, 325

To waft us home the message of despair?
Then bind the palm, thy sage's brow to suit,
Of blasted leaf, and death-distilling fruit!

Ah me! the laurel'd wreath that murder rears,
Blood-nurs'd, and water'd by the widow's
tears, 330
Seems not so foul, so tainted, and so dread,
As waves the night-shade round the sceptic
head.

What is the bigot's torch, the tyrant's chain?
I smile on death, if Heav'n-ward Hope remain!
But, if the warring winds of Nature's strife 335
Be all the faithless charter of my life,
If Chance awak'd, inexorable pow'r!
This frail and fev'rish being of an hour,
Doom'd o'er the world's precarious scene to
sweep,

Swift as the tempest travels on the deep, 340
To know Delight but by her parting smile,
And toil, and wish, and weep, a little while;
Then melt, ye elements, that form'd in vain
This troubled pulse, and visionary brain!
Fade, ye wild flowers, memorials of my doom! 345

And sink, ye stars, that light me to the tomb!
Truth, ever lovely, since the world began,
The foe of tyrants, and the friend of man, —
How can thy words from balmy slumber start
Reposing Virtue, pillow'd on the heart! 350
Yet, if thy voice the note of thunder roll'd,
And that were true which Nature never told;
Let Wisdom smile not on her conquer'd field;
No rapture dawns, no treasure is reveal'd!
Oh! let her read, nor loudly, nor elate, 355
The doom that bars us from a better fate;
But, sad as angels for the good man's sin,
Weep to record, and blush to give it in!

And well may Doubt, the mother of Dismay,
Pause at her martyr's tomb, and read the
lay, 360
Down by the wilds of yon deserted vale,
It darkly hints a melancholy tale!
There, as the homeless madman sits alone,

In hollow winds he hears a spirit moan!

And there, they say, a wizard orgie crowds, 365

When the moon lights her watch-tower in the

clouds,

Poor, lost Alonzo! Fate's neglected child!

Mild be the doom of Heav'n — as thou wert

mild!

For oh! thy heart in holy mould was cast,

And all thy deeds were blameless, but the

last, 370

Poor, lost Alonzo! still I seem to hear

The clod that struck thy hollow-sounding bier!

When Friendship paid, in speechless sorrow

— drown'd,

Thy midnight rites, but not on hallow'd ground!

Why lades the dew on Beauty's cheek?

Cease, every joy, to glimmer on my

mind, 375

But leave — oh! leave the light of Hope be-

hind!

What though my winged hours of bliss have
been,
Like angel-visits, few, and far between!
Her musing mood shall every pang appease,
And charm — when pleasures lose the power to
please! 380

Yes! let each rapture, dear to Nature, flee;
Close not the light of Fortune's stormy sea —
Mirth, Music, Friendship, Love's propitious
smile,
Chase every care, and charm a little while,
Ecstatic throbs the fluttering heart employ, 385
And all her strings are harmoniz'd to Joy! —
But why so short is Love's delighted hour?
Why fades the dew on Beauty's sweetest flow'r?
Why can no hymned charm of Music heal
The sleepless woes impassion'd spirits feel? 390
Can Fancy's fairy hands no veil create,
To hide the sad realities of fate? —

No ! not the quaint remark , the sapient rule,
Nor all the pride of Wisdom's worldly school,
Have pow'r to soothe, unaided and alone, 395
The heart that vibrates to a feeling tone!
When stepdame Nature every bliss recalls,
Fleet as the meteor o'er the desert falls;
When, 'rest of all, yon widow'd fire appears
A lonely hermit in the vale of years; 400
Say, can the world one joyous thought bestow
'To Friendship, weeping at the couch of Woe?
No ! but a brighter soothes the last adieu, —
Souls of impassion'd mould, she speaks to you!
Weep not, she says, at Nature's transient
pain, 405
Congenial spirits part to meet again! —

What plaintive sobs thy filial spirit drew,
What sorrow chok'd thy long and last adieu,
Daughter of Conrad ! when he heard his knell,
And bade his country and his child farewell ! 410

Doom'd the long isles of Sydney Cove to see,
The martyr of his crimes, but true to thee.

Thrice the sad father tore thee from his heart,
And thrice return'd, to bless thee, and to part;
Thrice from his trembling lips he murmur'd

low 415

The plaint that own'd unutterable woe;

Till Faith, prevailing o'er his sullen doom,

As bursts the morn on night's unfathom'd
gloom,

Lur'd his dim eye to deathless hopes sublime,

Beyond the realms of Nature and of Time! 420

“And weep not thus, (he cried) young El-
lenore!

My bosom bleeds, but soon shall bleed no more!

Short shall this half-extinguish'd spirit burn,

And soon these limbs to kindred dust return!

But not, my child, with life's precarious fire, 425

The immortal ties of Nature shall expire;

These shall resist the triumph of decay,
When time is o'er, and worlds have pass'd
away!
Cold in the dust this perish'd heart may lie,
But that which warm'd it once shall never die! 430
That spark unburied in its mortal frame,
With living light, eternal, and the fame,
Shall beam on Joy's interminable years,
Unveil'd by darkness — unassuag'd by tears!

“Yet, on the barren shore and stormy
deep, 435
One tedious watch is Conrad doom'd to weep;
But when I gain the home without a friend,
And press th' uneasy couch where none attend,
This last embrace, still cherish'd in my heart,
Shall calm the struggling spirit ere it part! 440
Thy darling form shall seem to hover nigh,
And hush the groan of life's last agony!

“Farewell! when strangers lift thy father’s
bier,
And place my nameless stone without a tear;
When each returning pledge hath told my
child 445
That Conrad’s tomb is on the desert pil’d;
And when the dream of troubled fancy sees
Its lonely rank-grass waving in the breeze;
Who then will soothe thy grief, when mine is
o’er?

Who will protect thee, helpless Ellenore? 450
Shall secret scenes thy filial sorrows hide,
Scorn’d by the world, to factious guilt allied?
Ah! no; methinks the generous and the good
Will woo thee from the shades of solitude!
O’er friendless grief compassion shall awake, 455
And smile on Innocence, for Mercy’s sake!”

Inspiring thought of rapture yet to be,
The tears of love were hopeless, but for thee!

If in that frame no deathless spirit dwell,
If that faint murmur be the last farewell! 460
If fate unite the faithful but to part,
Why is their memory sacred to the heart?
Why does the Brother of my childhood seem
Restor'd a while in every pleasing dream?
Why do I joy the lonely spot to view, 465
By artless friendship blest when life was new?

Eternal Hope! when yonder spheres sublime
Peal'd their first notes to sound the march of Time,
Thy joyous youth began — but not to fade. —
When all the sister planets have decay'd; 470
When rapt in fire the realms of ether glow,
And Heav'n's last thunder shakes the world below;
Thou, undismay'd, shalt o'er the ruin smile,
And light thy torch at Nature's funeral pile!

And right opposite to Nature's usual tale
 Thou, undimmed, shalt cut the main tale
 And Heav'n's starry number makes the world's tale
 When tape in the regions of ether glows
 We keep all the kind powers have decay'd;
 Thy joyous youth began — but not to fade —
 To earth's barren hills to crown the march of Time,
 Eternal Hope! when yonder spheres sublime

NOTES ON PART I.

Note 1. And such thy strength-inspiring aid
that bore

The hardy Byron to his native shore.

The following picture of his own distress, given by Byron in his simple and interesting narrative, justifies the description in p. 10. After relating the barbarity of the Indian Cacique to his child, he proceeds thus: — “A day or two after, we put to sea again, and crossed the great bay I mentioned we had been at the bottom of, when we first hauled away to the westward. The land here was very low and sandy, and some-

thing like the mouth of a river which discharged itself into the sea, and which had been taken no notice of by us before, as it was so shallow that the Indians were obliged to take every thing out of their canoes, and carry it over land. We rowed up the river four or five leagues, and then took into a branch of it that ran first to the eastward and then to the north-ward: here it became much narrower, and the stream excessively rapid, so that we gained but little way, though we wrought very hard. At night we landed upon its banks, and had a most uncomfortable lodging, it being a perfect swamp; and we had nothing to cover us, though it rained excessively. The Indians were little better off than we, as there was no wood here to make their wigwams; so that all they could do was to prop up the bark, which they carry in the bottom of their canoes, and shelter themselves as well as they could to the leeward of it. Know-

ing the difficulties they had to encounter here, they had provided themselves with some seal; but we had not a morsel to eat, after the heavy fatigues of the day, excepting a sort of root we saw the Indians make use of, which was very disagreeable to the taste. We laboured all next day against the stream, and fared as we had done the day before. The next day brought us to the carrying-place. Here was plenty of wood, but nothing to be got for sustenance. We passed this night as we had frequently done, under a tree; but what we suffered at this time is not easy to be expressed. I had been three days at the oar, without any kind of nourishment except the wretched root above mentioned. I had no shirt, for it had rotted off by bits. All my clothes consisted of a short grieko (something like a bear-skin), a piece of red cloth which had once been a waistcoat, and a ragged pair of trowsers, without shoes or stockings.

Note 2. A Briton and a friend.] Don Patricio Gedd, a Scotch physician in one of the Spanish settlements, hospitably relieved Byron and his wretched associates, of which the Commodore speaks in the warmest terms of gratitude.

Note 3. Or yield the lyre of Heav'n another string.

The seven strings of Apollo's harp were the symbolical representation of the seven planets. Herschel, by discovering an eighth, might be said to add another string to the instrument.

Note 4. The Swedish sage.] Linnaeus.

Note 5. Deep from his vaults the Loxian murmurs flow.

Loxias is a name frequently given to Apollo by Greek writers: it is met with more than once in the *Chæphoræ* of Aeschylus.

Note 6. Unlocks a generous store at thy
command,

Like Horeb's rocks beneath the pro-
phet's hand.

See Exodus, chap. xvii. 3, 5, 6.

Note 7. [Wild Obi flies.] Among the negroes of the West Indies, Obi, or Obiah, is the name of a magical power, which is believed by them to affect the object of its malignity with dismal calamities. Such a belief must undoubtedly have been deduced from the superstitious mythology of their kinsmen on the coast of Africa. I have therefore personified Obi as the evil spirit of the African, although the history of the African tribes mentions the evil spirits of their religious creed by a different appellation.

Note 8. [Sibir's dreary mines.] Mr. Bell of Antermomy, in his Travels through Siberia, in-

forms us that the name of the country is universally pronounced Sibir by the Russians.

Note 9. Prefaging wrath to Poland — and to
man!

The history of the partition of Poland, of the massacre in the suburbs of Warsaw, and on the bridge of Prague, the triumphant entry of Suworow into the Polish capital, and the insult offered to human nature, by the blasphemous thanks offered up to Heaven, for victories obtained over men fighting in the sacred cause of liberty, by murderers and oppressors, are events generally known.

Note 10. The shrill horn blew.] The negroes in the West Indies are summoned to their morning work by a shell or a horn.

Note II. How long was Timur's iron sceptre
sway'd!

To elucidate this passage, I shall subjoin a quotation from the Preface to Letters from a Hindoo Rajah, a work of elegance and celebrity.

"The impostor of Mecca had established, as one of the principles of his doctrine, the merit of extending it, either by persuasion, or the sword, to all parts of the earth. How steadily this injunction was adhered to by his followers, and with what success it was pursued, is well known to all who are in the least conversant in history.

"The same overwhelming torrent, which had inundated the greater part of Africa, burst its way into the very heart of Europe, and covered many kingdoms of Asia with unbounded de-

solation, directed its baleful course to the flourishing provinces of Hindostan. Here these fierce and hardy adventurers, whose only improvement had been in the science of destruction, who added the fury of fanaticism to the ravages of war, found the great end of their conquests opposed, by objects which neither the ardour of their persevering zeal, nor savage barbarity, could surmount. Multitudes were sacrificed by the cruel hand of religious persecution, and whole countries were deluged in blood, in the vain hope, that by the destruction of a part, the remainder might be persuaded, or terrified into the profession of Mahomedism; but all these sanguinary efforts were ineffectual; and at length, being fully convinced, that though they might extirpate, they could never hope to convert any number of the Hindoos, they relinquished the impracticable idea, with which they had entered upon their career of conquest, and

contented themselves with the acquirement of the civil dominion and almost universal empire of Hindostan."

Letters from a Hindoo Rajah, by Eliza Hamilton.

Note 12. And brav'd the stormy spirit of
the Cape.

See the description of the Cape of Good Hope, translated from Camoens, by Mickle.

Note 13. While famish'd nations died along
the shore.

The following account of British conduct, and its consequences, in Bengal, will afford a sufficient idea of the fact alluded to in this passage. After describing the monopoly of salt, betel nut, and tobacco, the historian proceeds thus: "Money in this current came but by drops; it could not quench the thirst of those who

waited in India to receive it. An expedient, such as it was, remained to quicken its pace. The natives could live with little salt, but could not want food. Some of the agents saw themselves well situated for collecting the rice into stores; they did so. They knew the Gentoos would rather die than violate the principles of their religion by eating flesh. The alternative would therefore be between giving what they had, or dying. The inhabitants sunk; — they that cultivated the land, and saw the harvest at the disposal of others; planted in doubt; scarcity ensued. Then the monopoly was easier managed — sickness ensued. In some districts the languid living left the bodies of their numerous dead unburied.”

Short History of the English Transactions in the East Indies, page 145.

Note 14. Nine times hath Brama's wheels of
lightning hurl'd
His awful presence o'er the prostrate
world!

Among the sublime fictions of the Hindoo mythology, it is one article of belief, that the Deity Brama has descended nine times upon the world in various forms, and that he is yet to appear a tenth time, in the figure of a warrior upon a white horse, to cut off all incorrigible offenders. Avatar is the word used to express his descent.

Note 15. And Camdeo bright, and Ganefa
sublime.

Camdeo is the God of Love in the mythology of the Hindoos. Ganefa and Seriswattee correspond to the Pagan deities, Janus and Minerva.

Yokuts. These three main branches of
the Yokuts are distinguished by
their own special dialects of the primitive
Yokuts language. Among the various dialects of the Yokuts
mythology, it is one article of belief, that the
Yokuts has descended upon the
world in various forms, and that he is yet to ap-
pear a tenth time, in the figure of a warrior
upon a white horse, to cut off the accursed
offenders. The word used to express
his descent is *Yokuts*, which is the
Yokuts word for "to descend" or "to come down".
Yokuts. And *Yokuts*, *Yokuts*, and *Yokuts*
are the three main branches of the Yokuts.
Yokuts is the God of Power in the mytho-
logy of the Yokuts. Yokuts and Yokuts
correspond to the *Yokuts*, *Yokuts*, and
Yokuts.

NOTES ON PART II.

Note 1. The noon of manhood to a myrtle
shade!

Sacred to Venus is the myrtle shade.

Dryden.

Note 2. Thy woes, Arion!] Falconer, in his
poem, The Shipwreck, speaks of himself by
the name of Arion.

See Falconer's Shipwreck, Canto III.

Note 3. The Robber Moor.

See Schiller's tragedy of the Robbers,

Scene V.

Note 4. What millions died that Cæsar might
be great.

The carnage occasioned by the wars of Julius Cæsar has been usually estimated at two millions of men.

Note 5. Or learn the fate that bleeding thou-
sands bore,
March'd by their Charles to Dneiper's
swampy shore.

In this extremity (says the Biographer of Charles XII. of Sweden, speaking of his military exploits before the battle of Pultowa), the memorable winter of 1709, which was still more remarkable in that part of Europe than in France, destroyed numbers of his troops; for Charles resolved to brave the seasons as he had done his enemies, and ventured to make long marches during this mortal cold. It was in one of

these marches that two thousand men fell down dead with cold before his eyes.

Note 6. As on Jona's height.

The natives of the island of St. Jona have an opinion, that on certain evenings every year, the tutelary saint, Columba, is seen on the top of the church spires counting the surrounding islands, to see that they have not been sunk by the power of witchcraft.

Note 7. And part, like Ajut, — never to
return!

6 See the history of Ajut and Anningait in the Rambler.

these matters, it is two thousand years ago
dead with cold before his eyes.

The natives of the island of St. John have an
opinion, that on certain evenings every year,
a tutelary spirit, Colaptes, is seen on the top
of the church, thus coupling the superstition
of the island, to the fact that they have not been sunk by
the power of witchcraft.

And part, like Ajar, — never to

See the hills of Ajar and Amangar in the

hampers.

SPECIMENS
OF
TRANSLATION FROM MEDEA.

SPECIMENS

OF

TRANSLATION FROM MEDICAL

TRANSLATION
93
Why can no bard, with magic strain,
In numbers keep the heart of pain?
While varied
The mild, the plaintive, and the deep,
Bends not the listening heart to hear
TRANSLATION FROM MEDEA.

Σκαίους δὲ λέγων, κευδὲν τι σοφους

Τους πρόσθε βροτους ουκ αν αμαρτοις.

Medea, v. 194. p. 33. Glasg. Edit.

TELL me, ye bards, whose skill sublime
First charm'd the ear of youthful Time,
With numbers wrapt in heav'nly fire;
Who bade delighted Echo swell
The trembling transports of the lyre,
The murmur of the shell, —
Why to the burst of Joy alone
Accords sweet Music's soothing tone?

Why can no bard, with magic strain,
In slumbers steep the heart of pain? 10
While varied tones obey your sweep,
The mild, the plaintive, and the deep,
Bends not despairing Grief to hear
Your golden lute, with ravish'd ear?
Oh! has your sweetest shell no power to bind 15
The fiercer pangs that shake the mind,
And lull the wrath, at whose command
Murder bares her gory hand?
When flush'd with joy, the rosy throng
Weave the light dance, ye swell the song! 20
Cease, ye vain warblers! cease to charm
The breast with other raptures warm!
Cease! till your hand with magic strain
In slumbers steep the heart of pain!

SPEECH OF THE CHORUS

IN THE SAME TRAGEDY,

To dissuade Medea from her purpose of putting her Children to death, and flying for protection to Athens.

O HAGGARD queen! to Athens dost thou guide
Thy glowing chariot, steep'd in kindred gore;
Or seek to hide thy damned parricide
Where Peace and Mercy dwell for evermore?

The land where Truth, pure, precious, and
sublime, 5

Woos the deep silence of sequester'd bowers,
And warriors, matchless since the first of Time,
Rear their bright banners o'er unconquer'd
towers!

Where joyous Youth, to Music's mellow strain,

Twines in the dance with Nymphs for ever

fair, 10

While Spring eternal, on the lily plain,

Waves amber radiance through the fields of

air!

The tuneful Nine (so sacred legends tell)

First wak'd their heavenly lyre these scenes

among;

Still in your greenwood bowers they love to

dwell; 15

Still in your vales they swell the choral song!

For there the tuneful, chaste, Pierian fair,

The guardian nymphs of green Parnassus, now

Sprung from Harmonia, while her graceful

hair

Wav'd in bright auburn o'er her polish'd

brow! 20

ANTISTROPHE I.

Where silent vales, and glades of green array,
The murm'ring wreaths of cool Cephissus lave,
There, as the muse hath sung, at noon of day,
The Queen of Beauty bow'd to taste the wave!

And blest the stream, and breath'd across the
land, 25

The soft sweet gale that fans yon summer

bowers;

And there the sister Loves, a smiling band,

Crown'd with the fragrant wreaths of rosy

flowers!

“And go, (she cries) in yonder valleys rove,

With Beauty's torch the solemn scenes il-

lume; 30

Wake in each eye the radiant light of Love,

Breathe on each cheek young Passion's tender

bloom!

Entwine, with myrtle chains, your soft controul,
 To sway the hearts of Freedom's darling kind!
 With glowing charms enrapture Wisdom's
 soul, 35
 And mould to grace ethereal Virtue's mind."

STROPHE II.

The land where Heaven's own hallow'd waters
 play,
 Where Friendship binds the generous and the
 good,
 Say, shall it hail thee from thy frantic way,
 Unholy woman! with thy hands embrued 40
 In thine own children's gore? — oh! ere they
 bleed,
 Let Nature's voice thy ruthless heart appal!
 Pause at the bold, irrevocable deed —
 The mother strikes — the guiltless babes shall
 fall!

Think what remorse thy maddening thoughts
shall sting, 45

When dying pangs their gentle bosoms tear;
Where shalt thou sink, when ling'ring echoes
ring

The screams of horror in thy tortur'd ear?

No! let thy bosom melt to Pity's cry, —

In dust we kneel — by sacred Heaven im-
plore — 50

O! stop thy lifted arm, ere yet they die,
Nor dip thy horrid hands in infant gore!

ANTISTROPHE II.

Say, how shalt thou that barb'rous soul as-
sume?

Undamp'd by horror at the daring plan,
Hast thou a heart to work thy children's
doom? 55

Or hands to finish what thy wrath began?

When o'er each babe you look a last adieu,
And gaze on Innocence that smiles asleep,
Shall no fond feeling beat, to Nature true,
Charm thee to pensive thought — and bid thee
weep? 60

When the young suppliants clasp their Parent
dear,
Heave the deep sob, and pour the artless pray-
er, —

Aye! thou shalt melt! — and many a heart-shed
tear

Gush o'er the harden'd features of despair!

Nature shall throb in ev'ry tender string, — 65

Thy trembling heart the ruffian's task de-
ny; —

Thy horror-smitten hands afar shall fling

The blade, undrench'd in blood's eternal
dye!

CHORUS.

Hallow'd Earth! with indignation

Mark, oh, mark the murd'rous deed! 70

Radiant eye of wide Creation

Watch the damned parricide!

Yet, ere Colchia's rugged daughter

Perpetrate the dire design,

And consign to kindred slaughter, 75

Children of thy golden line!

Shall the hand, with murder gory,

Cause immortal blood to flow?

Sun of Heav'n! — array'd in glory!

Rise, — forbid, — avert the blow! 80

In the vales of placid gladness

Let no rueful maniac range;

Chase afar the fiend of Madness,

Wrest the dagger from Revenge!

Say, hast thou, with kind protection, 85

Rear'd thy smiling race in vain;

Fost'ring Nature's fond affection,

Tender cares, and pleasing pair?

Hast thou, on the troubled ocean,

Brav'd the tempest loud and strong, 90

Where the waves, in wild commotion,

Roar Cyanean rocks among?

Didst thou roam the paths of danger,

Hymenean joys to prove?

Spare, O sanguinary stranger, 95

Pledges of thy sacred love!

Shall not Heaven, with indignation,

Watch thee o'er the barb'rous deed?

Shalt thou cleanse, with expiation,

Monstrous, murd'rous, parricide? 100

LOVE AND MADNESS;

AN ELEGY.

WRITTEN IN 1795.

LOVE AND MADNESS;

AN ELEGY.

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LOVE AND MADNESS;

AN ELEGY.

WRITTEN IN 1795.

HARK! from the battlements of yonder tower*
The solemn bell has toll'd the midnight hour!
Rous'd from drear visions of distemper'd sleep,
Poor B——k wakes — in solitude to weep!

“Cease, Mem'ry, cease (the friendless mourn-
er cry'd),
To probe the bosom too severely tried! 6

Oh! ever cease, my pensive thoughts, to stray
Through the bright fields of Fortune's better
day:

* Warwick Castle.

When youthful Hope, the music of the mind,
Tun'd all its charms, and E——n was kind! 10

“Yet, can I cease, while glows this trembling
frame,

In sighs to speak thy melancholy name!

I hear thy spirit wail in every storm!

In midnight shades I view thy passing form!

Pale as in that sad hour, when doom'd to feel, 15

Deep in thy perjur'd heart the bloody steel!

“Demons of Vengeance! ye at whole com-
mand

I grasp'd the sword with more than woman's
hand,

Say ye, did Pity's trembling voice controul,

Or horror damp the purpose of my soul? 20

No! my wild heart sat smiling o'er the plan,

Till Hate fulfill'd what baffled Love began!

“Yes ; let the clay-cold breast , that never
knew

One tender pang to generous Nature true,
Half-mingling pity with the gall of scorn, 25
Condemn this heart that bled in love forlorn!

“And ye, proud fair, whose souls no gladness
warms,

Save Rapture’s homage to your conscious charms!
Delighted idols of a gaudy train!

Ill can your blunter feelings guess the pain, 30
When the fond faithful heart, inspir’d to prove
Friendship refin’d, the calm delight of love,
Feels all its tender strings with anguish torn,
And bleeds at perjur’d Pride’s inhuman scorn!

“Say, then, did pitying Heav’n condemn the
deed, 35

When Vengeance bade thee, faithless lover!
bleed?

"'Tis done! the flame of hate no longer
burns;
Nature relents; but, ah! too late returns!
Why does my soul this gush of fondness feel?
Trembling and faint, I drop the guilty steel!
Cold on my heart the hand of terror lies, 55
And shades of horror close my languid eyes! —

"Oh! 'twas a deed of Murder's deepest grain!
Could B——k's soul so true to wrath remain?
A friend long true, a once fond lover fell! —
Where Love was foster'd, could not Pity dwell? 60

"Unhappy youth! while yon pale crescent
glows,
To watch on silent Nature's deep repose,
Thy sleepless spirit, breathing from the tomb,
Foretells my fate, and summons me to come!
Once more I see thy sheeted spectre stand, 65
Roll the dim eye, and wave the paly hand!

“Soon may this fluttering spark of vital flame
Forfake its languid melancholy frame!

Soon may these eyes their trembling lustre close,
Welcome the dreamless night of long repose! 70

Soon may this woe-worn spirit seek the bourn
Where, lull'd to slumber, Grief forgets to

—! **mourn!**”

S O N G S.

THE WOUNDED HUSSAR.

ALONE to the banks of the dark-rolling Danube

Fair Adelaide hied when the battle was o'er:

O whither, she cried, hast thou wander'd, my
lover;

Or here dost thou welter, and bleed on the
shore?

What voice did I hear? 'twas my Henry that
sigh'd! 5

All mournful she hasten'd, nor wander'd she
far,

When bleeding, and low, on the heath she
descried,

By the light of the moon, her poor wounded
Hussar!

From his bosom that heav'd, the last torrent was
streaming,

And pale was his visage, deep mark'd with a
scar; 10

And dim was that eye, once expressively beaming,
That melted in love, and that kindled in war!

How smit was poor Adelaide's heart at the sight!

How bitter she wept o'er the victim of war!

Hast thou come, my fond Love, this last for-
rowful night,

To cheer the lone heart of your wounded
Hussar? 16

Thou shalt live, she replied, Heav'n's mercy re-
lieving

Each anguishing wound, shall forbid me to
mourn!

Ah, no! the last pang in my bosom is heaving!

No light of the morn shall to Henry return! 20

Thou charmer of life, ever tender and true!

Ye babes of my love that await me afar! —

His faltering tongue scarce could murmur

adieu,

When he sunk in her arms — the poor wound-

ed Hussar!

I am sorry to hear of your illness and hope

to hear of your recovery soon.

My love to you and your family.

Yours

When he is in bed - the poor fellow

on his feet.

—

He is now in bed - the poor fellow

on his feet.

Yours

When he is in bed - the poor fellow

on his feet.

Yours

When he is in bed - the poor fellow

on his feet.

Yours

When he is in bed - the poor fellow

on his feet.

Yours

GILDEROY.

THE last, the fatal hour is come,
That bears my love from me;
I hear the dead note of the drum,
I mark the gallows tree!

The bell has toll'd; it shakes my heart; 5
The trumpet speaks thy name;
And must my Gilderoy depart
To bear a death of shame?

No bosom trembles for thy doom;
No mourner wipes a tear; 10
The gallows' foot is all thy tomb,
The sledge is all thy bier!

Oh, Gilderoy! bethought we then

So soon, so sad, to part,

When first in Roslin's lovely glen

15

You triumph'd o'er my heart!

Your locks they glitter'd to the sheen,

Your hunter garb was trim;

And graceful was the ribbon green

That bound your manly limb!

20

Ah! little thought I to deplore

These limbs in fetters bound;

Or hear, upon thy scaffold floor,

The midnight hammer sound.

Ye cruel, cruel, that combin'd

25

The guileless to pursue;

My Gilderoy was ever kind,

He could not injure you!

A long adieu! but where shall fly

Thy widow all forlorn,

30

When every mean and cruel eye

Regards my woe with scorn?

Yes! they will mock thy widow's tears,

And hate thine orphan boy

Alas! his infant beauty wears

35

The form of Gilderoy!

Then will I seek the dreary mound,

That wraps thy mouldering clay;

And weep and linger on the ground,

And sigh my heart away.

40

A long while, I have been thinking of you.

The weather is so warm.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

I am every day, and every night.

THE HARPER.

ON the green banks of Shannon, when Sheelah
was nigh,

No blithe Irish lad was so happy as I;
No harp like my own could so cheerily play,
And wherever I went was my poor dog Tray.

When at last I was forc'd from my Sheelah to
part, 5

She said (while the sorrow was big at her heart),
Oh! remember your Sheelah when far far away;
And be kind, my dear Pat, to our poor dog Tray.

Poor dog! he was faithful and kind, to be sure,
And he constantly lov'd me, although I was
poor; 10

When the sour-looking folks sent me heartless
away,

I had always a friend in my poor dog Tray.

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Campbell, Thomas,

The pleasures of Hope and other poems

Leipzig 1803

P.o.angl. 57

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